TMNT: Suicidal Karai

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TMNT: Suicidal Karai

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Summary

This is a story about Karai and the aftermath of the city at war episode. After Tigerclaw said that nobody would mourn her when she was gone...Karai took those words to heart and wondered if what Tigerclaw said was true. She started to feel really depressed and began cutting herself. Will Splinter and her friends care enough to help her or will they just leave her to die?

(I'm thinking about making another one, just because I think I could have done better but what do you think?)

Chapter 1

Karai's plans for tonight did not go how she wanted it to. Everything went south so fast. Shinigami got taken down by Tigerclaw forcing Karai to surrender, giving her no choice but to call the turtles for help and was tied up with her feet off the floor.

Tigerclaw somehow knew that Karai had contacted the turtles and destroyed her phone. Worried for their safety, Karai decided to take a risk and cut herself free, kicking Fishface as she did. Tigerclaw then attacked as Razor and Fishface cheered him on. Just when Karai thought she had the upper hand, Tigerclaw threw her against some crates and grabbed her arm, lifting her in the air as she struggled to get away.

What Tigerclaw did next, cut her deeply then she'd ever imagine it could.

"I always thought you were a spoiled, petulant child. This world will not mourn you when you are gone." He said as he pointed his blade at her. Karai took in what he said, wondering if it was true.

"Tigerclaw!" Mikey called as he threw a star at him, and Karai took the chance to hit Tigerclaw in his one eye to escape. "Always have to wait till the last minute, guys?" She joked, not wanting them to notice her sudden sadness.

They all started attacking. Mikey freed Shini as she was finally waking up and they attacked Razor. April and Donnie were fighting Fishface while Leo and Karai were fighting Tigercalw who kicked Karai aside. The anger and sadness she felt at that moment was too much, so she was unable to control her snake form. Her smooth skin turned scaly white, her ruby eyes turned into a reptile emerald, and her hands turned into snake heads.

Karai then turned back to Tigerclaw with her fangs ready. Just when Tigerclaw was about to finish off Leo, she attacked him, wrapping her long snake arms around him, trying to choke him but again he was able to knock her down before she could do anything. If Karai wasn't so distracted by her thoughts, she would have used her fangs to poison him (not enough to kill him but enough for them to get away).

Just when Karai thought that Tigerclaw had finally won, April came in and saved the day, leaving Karai totally shocked. 'Are you kidding me? April O'Neil, was able to defeat Tigerclaw?' She snapped out of her thoughts when Mikey threw a smoke bomb, giving them a chance to escape. Karai made sure to set off the bombs as they did, and she couldn't help but smile when she heard it explode. 'That's what you get, Tigerclaw!'

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Later at the lair,

Now that they were all safe, Karai thought more about what Tigerclaw said to her as she looked at the turtles and April. She looked at Leo. Would he mourn her if she died today? He

has always been on her side and always believed in her...No, he wouldn't. Not after Karai poisoned and tortured his brothers and tried to kill his father.

She looked at Raph. Would he mourn for her? They tease each other and Raph seems to be more accepting of her...No, he would definitely not mourn her. That accepting is not accepting is just Raph tolerating her. He never liked her, since the very beginning and he always sees her as a threat, he would probably be glade if she was dead. Which kind of made her upset because she thought out of all the turtles, she could become very close with Raphael since they seem to be very similar but that was just wishful thinking.

Donnie. Would Donnie mourn her? He didn't trust her in the beginning, but he seemed to have warmed up to her a little...No. Out of all the others, she tortured Donnie way worse with that wired helmet, almost frying his genius brain! She can still hear him scream in pain every time she looks at him. Plus, she knows he has a thing for April and after what she did to her, he will definitely be glad she's gone.

What about Mikey? He called her sister as soon as Splinter told them that she was his daughter and is always giving her a smile...No. Mikey may be forgiving but even he can't forgive everything Karai has done to him and his family. She saw the fear in those baby blue eyes of his when she poisoned him and Raph.

Lastly, she looked at April. Would she- Yeah, right! Karai doesn't even have to think about this one. April had hated Karai as soon as she found out who she was when they first met. Even after Karai had saved the turtles, April always made sure to make it clear that she does not like nor trust her and after today with the kunoichi fight, there is no way in hell April will ever mourn her or be her friend. She made fun of her for becoming a kunoichi and had Shini fight her, to be fair Karai didn't know she would take so far, and she scolded her friend after they left. Whatever, Karai doesn't really like April too much either, but she has to admit she did well today and saved their lives, it will be wrong of her to not at least apologize.

Karai pulled Shinigami aside and told her that they needed to apologize to April. Shini gave her a confused look, not knowing Karai to be the apologizing type but she agreed to it because she is also grateful to April for helping them out of there.

They went to April and bowed. "April." Karai started and April looked at her with a bit of surprise on her face. "Shini and I want to apologize." They then stood straight. "Sorry about earlier."

April stared at them for a moment before giving a small smile and offering Karai a handshake, saying there is no grudge which took Karai back a little, but she returned the smile and shook her hand, but she immediately frowned when she heard-

"Miwa."

Karai looked at the old rat standing at the doorway. The disappointment and slight anger on his face, clear for Karai.

"Father." She said a mix of worry and relief.

She was happy to see that he was alright. The last time she saw him, she had badly injured him. Karai slowly walked to him with her head down as she again thought about Tigerclaw's words. Would Splinter mourn her? He obviously did when he thought she was dead...No, he will not mourn her. He mourned her before he met her. Once he got to know her a little, she never missed the look Splinter gave her, the look of disappointment and a little fear. He loves his sons more than anything else in the world and Karai almost killed them more times than she can count. Anyone who would dare lay a hand on Splinter's sons is unforgivable in his book. That is how she knows for sure that he will not miss her like he did before which greatly hurt her, almost physically.

While she was in Japan recovering from what happened with the brain-worm, she had missed him more than she had missed anyone else. She doesn't really understand why, she barely knows him, yet she missed him. Like she had always had. She didn't realize it until he told her the truth, but a part of Karai knew that she missed someone else besides her mother. Now she knows that person was her father, she remembered his voice which is why she hit Deja vu when he first spoke to her.

Karai kept her head down ashamed as Splinter softly scolded her. "Do not take on this burden of fighting the Shredder alone. Ally yourself with your family. Let us help you." He said as he put a hand on her shoulder.

'Family? Why do you keep saying that, Father? I know you don't think of me as family, you don't have to pretend because you feel guilty and bad for me.' Karai studied him for a second before lifting up her chin, her pride kicking in. "I've grown up, Father." She said before pulling away. "I need to rectify all the wrong deeds Shredder has done...my one way."

She said as she put a fist to her chest and with determination in her eyes, showing that she will not back down. Little did she know that Splinter had a hint of pride in his eyes when she did that, only a little though. What Karai is doing is wrong and dangerous but he couldn't help but to feel slightly proud of her. Despite what everyone else says, despite the dangers and consequences. Karai is known for following her own path and heart. She inherited that from him. These are qualities of a great leader...when used the right way of course. Instead, she is using that quality for vengeance which she inherited from Oroku Saki which is something he felt like he needed to make clear to his daughter.

"You are just seeking vengeance. This anger you carry was inherited from Oroku Saki, not from me." Karai looked slightly hurt by his words but knew that they were true. 'You honestly think I don't know that?'

"I know. Don't worry, Father." She then looked back down. "I'll make you proud of me...soon." She then left, leaving a guilty looking Splinter, knowing that he had said the wrong thing. "I am already proud of you, my daughter."

He tried to make up for what he said but Karai didn't hear him. She was already leaving with Shinigami. They were walking out the exit when Karai suddenly stopped. "Oh, wait! I forgot my bag!"

She ran back to the living room and grabbed the purple and black bag where she keeps the bombs in. She was about to leave when she heard Splinter and April talking, she peeked in to see what they were talking about.

"April. You have proven yourself a true kunoichi. I always knew you had the dragon spirit, and apparently the dragon's tail as well." Splinter slightly joked about the last part. Karai smiled a bit since they (she just recently learned) had the same sense of humor which made her wonder how much Karai and Splinter are alike.

She's fierce like her mother and vengeful like Shredder she knew but...was she anything like her father? Karai looked back to see April smiling at him. "It's all thanks to you, Sensei." She then hugged him which took Splinter off guard, not being much of a hugger but he gladly returned it, giving a proud and loving smile, a father could only give to a daughter.

Karai frowned sadly at that and slowly left, feeling like Splinter had not only replaced her with the turtles...but with April as well. Shinigami, who had been waiting, noticed her sad look. "Are you alright?"

"Yeah, fine. Let's go."

They walked down the tunnel and Karai slightly eyed her best friend. 'Would you mourn me, Shini?' She asked herself. She and Shinigami have always been as thick as thieves, they were always together and Shini has made it clear to Karai that she thought of her as a big sister. Karai had no reason to doubt that Shini would mourn her but...for some reason the doubt was there, she didn't really know why. Maybe it's a part of guilt for not being able to help Shini when her mother died and when her father neglected her. Maybe it's guilt for putting her in danger today. Who knows?

"I'm sorry, Senpai." Shini suddenly said, which took Karai off guard. "I underestimated that Tiger, I was cocky, and I let him win."

Karai shook her head. "No, Shini, it's my fault. I shouldn't have left you alone to fight someone you have never fought before. I'm sorry, I put you in danger." Shini chuckled. "But that's what I signed up for. Everything has been awfully boring at home since you left, it was nice to experience some excitement."

Karai still felt guilty. "...Still, I'll try to be more careful next time."

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Later,

Karai changed into her cozy black pajama pants with bones on it and a black tank-top with a skull on it. She sat in her bed, ready to fall asleep when she noticed her mother's picture that she always carried around.

Would her mother mourn her...No. Before Karai snuck out of the lair to fight Shredder, her father told her that her mother didn't really like the ninja life and almost left him because she didn't want her daughter to be part of it. Karai knows things would have turned out differently

if her mother had survived that day, but she knew for a fact that her mother couldn't keep ninjutsu away from her if she tried. One way or another ninjutsu would have found its way into Karai's life and she would have become a kunoichi. Ninjutsu was in her blood, it was a part of who she is, and it was her passion. She also knew that she would still probably get mutated somehow and she doubted that her mother would want a snake for a daughter! Even if her mother was alive, she wouldn't have become the daughter she wanted, the daughter she pictured in her mind.

That seemed to finally break Karai, she started crying, covering her eyes. She opened them slightly to see one of her knives on her desk. She stared at it as if it was calling to her and slowly picked it up with a shaky hand. Before Karai even knew what she was doing-

Cut *Cut*

Karai looked down at her arm to see two slightly deep cuts. The stinging felt good. She suddenly felt emotionally drained and laid down, leaving her arm to bleed itself until it stopped. Karai thought this would just be a one time thing but little did she know that this was just the beginning.

Chapter 2: I hate myself

Karai nervously walked in the lair as the turtles ran to the dojo to check on Donnie. What a night this has been. Donnie almost got blown up because of her. She should have known better than to include Leo in her plans to blow up Shredder's organization, she should've known eventually his brothers would find out and try to stop him.

Well...Karai got her karma. She almost blew herself up, but she was lucky enough to not get as injured as Donnie. Still, not wanting her father to see her all bloodied and bruised, she decided she would go to the bathroom to clean herself up.

She went into her bedroom that her father had prepared for her for when she came over to stay and grabbed a few clothes she kept here just in case she would need them. She went to the bathroom and took a quick shower, washing away all the soot, blood, and even her makeup.

Once Karai was done, she put on a white tank-top, an oversized red zipped up hoodie, and dark blue knee covered baggy shorts. Karai looked at her reflection and she gasped. A bit of her burn was still on her neck. She's sure if she sheds again, it will go away but that won't be until another month when she will be able to do it again.

She stared at herself for a while, mentally saying that she hated herself. That burn she got on the side of her face proves that she's more like Shredder than she thought. She almost killed Donnie again today, again. It wasn't on purpose, but Karai knew it was 100% her fault. She suddenly felt the need to cut again, to get rid of the guilt but she shook it off, trying to ignore it. Not wanting her father to see her burn, she lifted up her hood and headed to the dojo.

She knows Raph said that Donnie was fine, but she won't be able to sleep tonight until she sees for herself. She walked in and smiled when she saw Donnie laughing with the rest of his brothers, but she frowned when April gave her a look.

Karai then felt anger. She understands that April is mad at her because she secretly loves Donnie, but does she really have to make Karai feel even more guilty than she already is. Karai knows April can feel how other people feel so she knows that she is doing it on purpose. She gets that she almost got him killed today and she's sorry, but April has almost gotten the turtles killed plenty of times because of her reckless stupidity. By fighting and getting into situations she clearly wasn't ready for. Yeah, Leo told her about all the times he and his brothers had to save April because she was too cocky.

Karai slightly glared at her but looked away as Splinter was walking towards her, not wanting to see that look again. Karai knows there is nothing she can do to make up for what she did, but she had to at least say something. "I'm sorry, Father." She said before finally looking at him. "I'm glad Donatello's alright."

Sorry. She has been saying that a lot. She has been saying that since she found out the truth. She has said it so much that she doubts they even believe she's sorry anymore but what else

could she say? Excuses definitely wouldn't suffice. She almost blew up his son! There is no kind of excuse that can justify that!

In stead of shouting at her, like she had expected, Splinter only stayed calm. 'Why?! Why can't he ever just get mad at me?!' She knows that he's mad at her, but he refused to show it. Why? It was so irritating that she couldn't read her own father at all!

"Now you see the kind of pain and suffering revenge causes."

Karai glanced at Donnie and knew he was right. Donnie had almost lost his life because of her vendetta, the turtles almost lost a brother, and Splinter almost lost a son...all because of her.

She turned away. "I know. I thought I could make this about taking down Shredder's organization...but it's too much of a risk going after petty targets just to spite him."

Splinter's shoulders seemed to relax upon hearing this and he was honestly, a bit surprised. Maybe Karai had finally learned her lesson.

"I promise, I will no longer go after Shredder's possessions....I'll go after Shredder himself!"

NOPE! Her eyes suddenly turned cold, her hatred and anger still not yet tamed. She stomped off. Splinter turned to his sons. "You boys watch over Donatello!" He said before running after his daughter "Miwa!!"

Karai stopped and looked at him. Splinter gave her a stern look. "Miwa, this is getting out of hand! This needs to stop! You need to find a way to control your hatred and soon before you get yourself and your family hurt!!"

"Father, I'll be fine. I've been through worse. I've told you that I've grown up, I can take care of myself."

"You are not fine! You are putting yourself in danger!" Splinter argued. "You purposely almost blew yourself up!" Karai's eyes widened and Splinter crossed his arms. "Yes, Leonardo told me about it before you came in."

Karai glared at the floor and Splinter sighed. "Miwa...for once, think before you act! Today's events almost cost your life as well as Donatello's!"

Karai couldn't take it anymore. The guilt, the anger, the sadness, the hatred, it was too much to hold in all at once so...she exploded. "YOU DON'T THINK I KNOW THAT?!!!" She roared. "I know I messed up today and I said I was sorry but you know what? At least I'm out there doing something and not hiding underground like a coward like you! He killed my mother, your wife, and you could care less! Ninjas go out and fight, not hide underground! You are a disgrace to ninjas everywhere!"

Karai panted when she finished her outburst. Splinter stared at her in complete frozen shock until his eyes hardened. He gave Karai a different kind of look, he has never given her before. His eyes were clod as he got closer to her, staring her down.

"I am not a coward Miwa, but I am your father and you will show me respect." He said in a low angry voice. Instead of being quiet, Karai spoke up. "You have never done anything to earn my respect!"

Karai could not believe she said that. What was she thinking?! She wasn't thinking! It just came out of her mouth without her control! Splinter glared harder at her and Karai almost flinch at his glare. "Oh, really? How about saving you from the brain-worm! How about supporting you in your choices! How about I'm the reason you're living and standing here right now?!"

Karai's eyes turned slightly glassy. She has never been scolded so harshly by Splinter before and she didn't know how to take it. All she thought about was Shredder and the punishments he would put her through after he scolded her harshly.

Splinter pointed a finger on Karai's chest. "Now, get out of my sight and don't come back until you learn some respect." He said in a low growl before leaving.

Karai then ran out of the lair with tears pouring from her eyes.

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In Karai's bedroom,

Karai ran in and slammed the door shut behind her. Why did she act like that?! Why did she say that?! Karai was usually a master at controlling her emotions but lately she has been finding that difficult.

She saw the knife she had used on herself a few weeks ago and picked it up. 'This is punishment, you deserve this.'

Making Leo work for her, getting Donnie hurt, and disrespecting her father. That's three cuts.

Cut *Cut* *Cut*

Karai cried and smiled a bit at the same time. Loving how all the guilt, anger, and sadness seemed to go away at that moment. But it soon came back...it always comes back, and it always will. She cried harder and rocked back and forth. "Why am I like this? I hate myself! I only hurt everyone!"

She kept on crying until she cried herself to sleep.

Chapter 3: Dull

Karai takes a long deep breath. 'You can do this.' She convinces herself before walking in the lair with a box in her hands.

Splinter was in the dojo meditating but he woke from it when he heard his daughter come in. He looked at her curiously. Karai looked down and bit her bottom lip nervously. "I...uh...brought you an apology gift. I was out of line yesterday; I was just really upset about everything that happened...which is not an excuse!" She quickly said. "But-I...here just take it."

Karai put the box in front of him and Splinter opened it up. It was a cheesecake. He looked at her slightly amused. "Did you just assume because I'm a rat that I would like cheesecake?"

Karai blushed. "Well, I mean, I know my appetite and taste buds changed after I mutated. Now, I keep craving for ra- I mean, mice!" Splinter chuckled at her and patted a spot next to him, telling her to join him. She hesitated a bit before doing so.

"Actually, cheesecake was my favorite when I was human as well." Splinter said and Karai smiled about learning something new about her father. He sighed. "I believe I owe you an apology as well." Karai looked taken back. "What do you have to apologize to me for?"

"I was a bit too harsh with you. I know that you are going through a lot. Finding your place and processing everything Shredder put you through. I was just stressed about Leonardo, Donatello, and you. My eldest son was going behind my back while my other son and daughter almost got killed in an explosion."

"But all of that is my fault! I'm the one who let Leo join me in my vendetta, I'm the one you set the bombs, and I'm the one who blew myself up, knowing that I may die doing so!"

Splinter nodded. "That may be true Miwa but...Leonardo is the leader, and he knows better, I expect him to make the right decisions, not you. You couldn't have possibly known that Donatello and the others were going to be there right when you set the bombs. As for you willingly blowing yourself up...that was irresponsible, dangerous, and reckless!"

Karai looked down, ashamed. "I hope you weren't too hard on, Leo, though. He was only trying to help me." Splinter shook his head. "No, I believe seeing his brother getting hurt because of his actions was punishment enough. Besides, I know his heart was in the right place and he was only trying to protect his family."

"Oh, sure, when Leo is reckless and irresponsible it's ok but when I do it, I can't even sit down for a week because you beat the hell out of me!" A new voice complains, and they look to see an annoyed looking Raph. "Raphael..." Splinter warns. "We have already discussed this."

Raph grumbles before looking at Karai. "What are you wearing your armor for? It's daylight, you aren't going on a mission or something right now, are you?"

Karai tensed slightly; her armor was the only thing she had to cover her scars. Everything else she had was either worn out or dirty. 'I really need to start learning how to do my own laundry.' She thought to herself. "No, I was hoping Leo and I could spare. If that's ok?" She asked, looking at Splinter. "It's fine with me but I'm afraid Leonardo has left to train on his own for a while. Yesterday's events left a grave wound on him."

Karai looked guilty at that. Of course, Leo would feel guilty for Donnie getting hurt, he always feels guilty every time something goes wrong but it wasn't his fault. Karai doesn't understand why everyone is placing the blame on Leo and not her.

"I'll spare with ya. That is if you can keep up?" Raph said with a big gloating smile. Karai looked surprised. This will be her first time sparring with Raph. She would be lying if she said she wasn't excited. She always wanted to challenge Raphael because he was the strongest of the turtles and she wanted to see if he was stronger than her as well...but she doubts it.

"Are you sure you want to?" Karai asked, finding this weird since Raph always avoids her. He shrugged with a smirk. "Sure, why not? I've been wanting to pound your face in since I've met you. So, are you in or what?"

Karai smiled. "Let's do this, Raphie!" Raph growled at her. "Don't call me that! Ugh, I'm still pissed at Mikey for telling you that nickname!"

Splinter gave Raph a stern look before whacking his head with his staff. "Ow! Hey!" He whined. "Watch your language or else you'll spend the rest of the afternoon with a bar of soap in your mouth." Splinter warned.

"Yeah, Raphie, watch your mouth. You wouldn't want to upset your daddy, would you?" Karai said teasingly before getting in a fighting stance. "He's your daddy too!" He angrily pointed out before getting in a stance as well. "Yeah, but I ain't scared of him like you are."

That angered Raph more. "I ain't scared of him!" Karai chuckled. "Oh, really? Then why do you back down every time he scolds you?"

"You would do the same if Splinter punished you like he does us!" Raph said and Karai rolled her eyes. "No, I wouldn't. Not even Shredder could make me obedient and trust me when I say his punishments were ruthless."

Raph didn't even respond to that, feeling bad for the sister he could have grown up with if it wasn't for Shredder. "Hajima!" Splinter shouted and the two attacked each other like wild dogs.

Raph threw a punch at Karai's face, but she quickly dodged it. "You know? For a small little girl, you fight well." Karai glared at him and pinned him on the ground, aiming a knife at his neck. "I can make you into turtle soup in two seconds! You better watch it!"

Raph smirked. "You know what I always liked about you, Karai? Unlike all the rest of the bozos here, you're tough, like me, but you are also very, very overconfident when it comes to

fighting." Raph then grabbed Karai's shoulders and lifted her up with his legs, throwing her behind his head. "Also like me."

They then got up and attacked each other again. "True, but at least I don't cry every time things don't go my way!" Karai said as she kicked him in the face, making me tumble back slightly. "You're talking about me?! You're the one who acted like a spoiled little brat yesterday! What was that about, huh?!"

Raph grabbed his sais and attacked but Karai blocked it with her sword. "I was just upset about everything that happened!" Raph raised a brow. "Like what? We won, sure we got all banged up, but we won, and everything turned out, ok. So, why would you be upset about that?"

Karai pushed Raph back and charged forward. "I don't know! I just was!" She said, not wanting to admit the sadness she felt that day because it makes her feel weak. Raph punched Karai in the face, but she recovered quickly and kicked him in the gut, making him fall on his knees. He looked up at her. "You know you are going to have to let go of that part of your life someday, right? You can't be angry at Shredder forever and you can't keep putting the blame on him for your actions. I'm not saying forgive him or anything, forget about that! But you have to find a way to get him out of your life and be happy!"

'Why is he saying this to me?' Karai thought to herself confused but she shook it off, convincing herself that Raph was only trying to detract her so he would win. She tried to hit Raph again, but he moved out of the way and pinned her down. He looked in her eyes and was taken back a bit.

Karai's eyes that used to burn with such passion and determination were all lifeless. 'Has Karai's eyes always been so dull?' Raph asked himself, trying to remember Karai's eye color. Karai saw that Raph was distracted and she took the chance to roll him under her and pinned him down.

"Yame! Miwa, that's enough!" Splinter said and Karai got off him. She smirked at Raph and helped him up. "Better luck next time, Raphie." She then looked at Splinter. "Father...is it ok if I see Donatello?"

"Of course, he is resting in his lab." Splinter said and Karai nodded before walking out the door.

Raph watched her go with a slight worried look. He then looked at Splinter's eyes and squinted his eyes, trying to look at his eye color, knowing Karai had his eyes. "Is something wrong, Raphael?"

"Hm?! It's nothing Sensei, it's just...can I look at your eyes?" Raph asked and Splinter raised a brow. "Is there a reason for this?"

"No, Sensei, I just...want to see something."

"Alright then." Splinter turned to face his son and Raph got a bit closer. He looked at his father's ruby eyes, they were almost as red as his mask but brighter and Karai's eyes today

almost looked pink. "I am curious why you want to look at my eyes?"

Raph backed away. "It's nothing Pop, I'm just trying to figure something out." Before Splinter could ask another question Raph left the dojo and went to the living room where he saw Karai standing by the lab door.

She took a deep breath and was about to walk in, but someone opened the door before she could. April walked out and immediately frowned when she saw Karai. "Hey, Princess. I came to see Donatello. How is he?"

April crossed her arms. "He's fine, no thanks to you! It's your fault he got hurt in the first place!" Karai sighed. "...I know, I said that I was sorry, I really didn't think-"

April scoffed, cutting Karai off. "You always say you're sorry, but you don't mean it! You're right that you didn't think though, you never think things through! You always get yourself and others in danger! You don't care about anybody but yourself and your revenge. Just do us all a favor, Karai and stay far away from us!"

April stormed off as Karai looked down sadly. She looked at the lab door and slowly backed away before running out the lair, not noticing Raph as she did. Raph was shocked Karai didn't defend herself like she usually does, especially against April. There is definitely something wrong.

Raph walked in the lab to see Donnie resting on the bed while Mikey was playing video games on his T-phone next to him. He also heard the Shellraiser and Leo coming in. "Perfect, your back!"

Leo raised a brow at him. "Why is that perfect? Is something wrong?"

"Yes." Raph said, getting everyone's attention. "What is it?" Donnie asked, curiously. Raph sighed. "I think there's something wrong with Karai. She came by today and...I don't know..she seemed...off."

"How off?" Mikey asked.

"Like, off, off. Like just now, April went completely off on her and she just stood there and took it!" Leo shrugged. "Maybe she just didn't feel like getting in an argument with April."

Raph gave him a look. "When has Karai ever not gotten into an argument with somebody! I'm telling ya, something is wrong!"

"I think your just being paranoid." Donnie said. "Well, what about her eyes? When Karai and I spared earlier, I noticed that her eyes looked a bit dull."

"It was probably just the light or something or maybe it was all the fire and chemicals she was exposed to yesterday." Donnie suggested. "Why do you even care, bro? You've never cared about Karai before." Mikey asked, removing his eyes from his phone to look at him.

"Who says I don't care about Karai?" Raph asked while crossing his arms. Mikey looked at him like he was stupid. "Uh...you did with the way you treat her."

Raph rolled his eyes. "Oh, come on, I don't treat her that bad!"

"You kind of do Raph. You're hard on her all the time." Donnie said.

"Yeah, and you never had any faith in her. Like when Donnie couldn't make a cure for the brain worm you said and I quote, "Karai is a lost cause."" Leo pointed out.

Raph looked at all his brothers and growled. "Whatever guys!" He then stomped out of the room, passing Splinter on the way. "Raphael!" Splinter called and he stopped. "I want to talk to you about your session with Miwa."

Raph exhaled. "I know, I was a little rough but she's tough enough to handle it, Sensei." Splinter smiled and shook his head. "That's not what I meant. I wanted to say I'm proud of you for what you said to her in there. It's good to know she has others looking out for her even if she doesn't know it."

Raph looked down with a guilty look on his face. Raph didn't just say that because he's worried about Karai but also because he feels guilty that he couldn't save her. They all do! They were brought back to the past and they tried, they tried so hard to save Tang Shen, but they failed.

The only one they could save was Splinter but...they could have saved Karai as well that day...but they didn't. Raph understands that no matter what they did, they couldn't save Tang Shen because she was destined to die so they could get mutated but...would the future really change that much if they saved Karai?

They could have grabbed her and hid her before Shredder came or gone after Shredder and stolen her back, but they didn't...they were too afraid of what would happen if they did. They thought that if Tang Shen was destined to die then maybe Miwa was destined to be taken by Shredder so the future would play out like it was supposed to be....so they could be who they became to be.

But that was wrong and selfish of them! They could have changed her fate! They could have saved her from all the suffering she had to go through, but they didn't! Who knows?! Maybe they still would have gotten mutated?! Maybe the future would have turned out better instead of worse?! They will never know now because they were too scared to take the risk!

Raph sighed. "It was nothing, Sensei, I just feel bad for how I treated her in the past, is all." Splinter smiled and put a hand on his shoulder. "I know you only act that way because you see so much of yourself in her. I know you fear for her, as do I, but I'm sure Miwa will find her way in time."

Raph nodded and watched as Splinter walked off before going into his own room. He flopped on his bed and was about to take a nap but before he could- "Raphael?"

Raph sat up. "What the-" He's eyes widened at the figure standing before him. "S-Shen?"

Chapter 4: Darkness

Couple Months later,

"Go, see if she is alright." Splinter ordered his sons and April. The power in the lair went out and they found out it was leading towards Shredder's old lair. "Hai, Sensei, we're on it!" April said determined.

"Ah, probably just a waste of time. Goodbye Bradford marathon." Raph joked, hiding his worry. "Let's go, team!" Leo ordered and the others followed but Raph hung back. "Uh, you guys go on without me! I'll catch up!" He called after and turned to Splinter. "Is everything alright, Raphael?"

Raph exhaled. "Not really, Sensei, there is something I need to tell you and it's going to sound crazy but...I need you to just hear me out."

Splinter nodded, allowing his son to continue. "See, a couple months ago...something...unexpected happened..."

...

Couple months ago,

Raph was staring in disbelief as he stared at the ghost of Tang Shen. "I-I don't understand! How are you here?! Why are you here?!" Shen sighed. "Listen, my son, I came here to warn you, it's about Miwa."

"Karai? What about Karai?"

"I'm afraid I cannot tell you much, but Miwa is fighting a very powerful darkness and she can only be saved by the ones who love her most. It will not be long before this darkness takes over her, I am counting on you, Raphael, to save your sister." Shen explained.

Raph looked eager and confused. "What darkness?! I-I don't understand!" Shen glanced away sadly. "...I can't tell you, if I do...then the chances of saving her are very low. Please, my son, you must save your sister, she is not ready to join me yet!"

"But why me?! How can I save her?! I'm just a jerk!" Shen smiled. "The people who care the most are my son." She then went to him and placed a hand on his chest. "I believe in you.."

Raph's eyes teared up and he looked down. That's the third time she called him that. She called him her son even though...they failed to save her, she still thought of them as her sons. Raph has always secretly thought of Tang Shen as his mom even though she was nothing but a picture. He still would imagine her being here with them and caring for them like he saw the mothers do on TV.

"I'm sorry we couldn't save you. We tried, I promise that we tried."

"Shhh." Shen gave him a soft smile and cupped his cheeks. "My son, you have nothing to apologize to me for. I know you tried to save me and I appreciate that but I'm glad that you didn't because if you did then I wouldn't have four amazing Koppas for sons."

Shen then started to fade, making Raph panic a little. "What's happening?!"

"It is time for me to go, remember what I told you, Raphael, Miwa is counting on you." She said before she vanished and Raph tried to reach for her. "Shen-Mother, wait!" But it was too late, Shen was gone.

Raph stared at where she disappeared sadly for a while before walking out his bedroom door. "Don't worry, Mom, I'll save Karai, I promise."

...

Splinter stared blankly at Raph. "Are...are you sure about this, Raphael?" Raph nodded. "I'm positive, Sensei. She told me that I had to save Karai from some darkness but I don't know what that so-called darkness is...do you think it's Shredder?"

Splinter hummed. "Maybe...go with your brothers...I must meditate on this."

"Hai Sensei!"

...

This had to be a joke. Standing before Karai was her fake abusive father...Shredder. Memories flash before he eyes as she listens to his pleas. So many memories happened in this very room. Some when she is below the stairs, bowing down to him, begging for forgiveness while he is standing by his throne, glaring at her with such fury.

Oh, how the times have changed.

Now she is the one standing proud by the throne and glaring at him with even more fury than he can ever hope to master while he is below the stairs looking so desperate and pathetic! The man even mutated himself just to get his revenge and to get her back. Well, Karai was not going to let that happen. As long as she is living she will make sure Shredder and his followers never succeed...until the day she dies...then she suppose it will be all up to her brothers and father.

"You're insane! You are the monster!" Karai shouted while pointing her sword at him, with an ice-cold glare. "You lie to yourself so much you come to believe an entire dream!"

"SILENCE!!" Shredder snapped. "I was there! I saw what happened! The night that he took your mother's life! I..saw it...I."

Karai rolled her eyes at him. Honestly, she doesn't know if this is just pure delusional, or he just thinks that she is that gullible. Shini smirk at me. "Let's take this crazy mutant down."

"Foot Clan! Attack!"

Karai ordered and as she expected they were all easily taken down. Karai wanted to see if Shredder's mutation had made him stronger so, (even though she felt guilty about it), she used her soldiers to see what he is capable of now so she knows what strategy she should use.

She and Shinigami then attacked. They lasted a lot longer than the Foot soldiers, but they still did not last long enough to even get a scratch on him. Karai was thrown away and she groaned as she landed hard on the ground.

Shini looked at her and then looked deadly at Shredder. "I'll destroy you, monster! For everything you have done to Karai!!" She vowed before poofing into thin air and appearing behind Shredder, attacking him.

Karai couldn't help but feel guilty, that once again she is putting her friend in danger and she is the one who is protecting her. Karai looks up when she hears Shini being taken down and saw that Shredder was about to break her skull with his giant foot.

'Come on, Karai, focus!' She scolded herself before turning into her snake form and attacking Shredder. She tried to get her fangs into his skin to poison him but they would not go through and she hissed in frustration. Shredder then grabbed her by the neck and threw her repeatedly on the ground.

Shredder then lifted her up as she turned back to human form. "I will let your friend go as a gesture of my love! But if you struggle, I will hunt her down and crush her into pulp!" He threatened while squeezing her tightly. "Understand?!"

Karai glared at him then looked at Shini before lowering her head in submission. She was terrified and would use all of her power to escape this man but she couldn't risk Shinigami's life. Shini has a whole life to live, she has a future, and even a small family. Karai...has none of that...her life didn't matter...only her's...only theirs.

As Karai was roughly pushed forward by Tigerclaw, those words he said to her plaid in her head. 'This world will not mourn you when you are gone!'

Maybe this was it, maybe today...Karai was going to die. Maybe...that won't be such a bad thing. She was snapped out of her thoughts when she heard what sounded like the Shellraiser. She couldn't help but feel annoyed.

'You guys have the worst timing ever!'

She watched as Leo attempted to ram Shredder, but Shredder caught the Shellraiser and lifted it up. "Tell your master I have my daughter back and if he wishes to see her one last time, come to where I last defeated him!!" He told them before throwing them away and to Karai's horror, the Shellraiser lit on fire!

"What have you done?!" She shouted at Shredder while glaring at him. Tigerclaw put a hand on her shoulder. "Calm yourself, girl, they escaped." Karai shoved him off and turned her glare to him. "Don't touch me, you overgrown cat!!"

"Enough!" Shredder shouted. "Put her in the van and let's go!"

'Please, Father, don't come! Just leave me, please!' Karai pleaded in her mind as she was thrown into a white van.

She doesn't understand it, but they always come to save her! Maybe it's out of guilt or maybe it's because they feel like they have to. Whatever the reason, Karai hopes that they don't come this time because she has a feeling...Splinter will not be able to fight Shredder as easily as he has before.

Chapter 5: The sword...

Too close, that was too close. Today, Karai almost lost her father, Shredder almost won. Her father and Shredder both fell in the Undercity which is, (according to Donnie) 1000 feet down, Karai was sure Splinter was dead but...by some miracle...he survived.

Karai couldn't believe the text message she got from Donnie when she read it, that Splinter was alive and was on their way home. Once she got over the shock, she announced the news to April and Leo who cried in relief.

Karai was relieved as well but that feeling was quickly replaced with guilt. This was all her fault! This never would have happened if they didn't have to save her, if she had hidden better from Shredder! Today was just too close of a call and it was all on her! Karai's reason for living, her only purpose was to protect the family she has left from befallen the same fate as her mother, to make sure Shredder would never get his hands on them but...it always seems like she is the one who causes them to get in Shredder's hands in the first place.

No matter what she does or how hard she tries, her only purpose in this world...is to hurt the ones she loves. Karai felt tears in her eyes, she needed to get out of here...there is no point in her living anymore...

Karai started to run out, but Leo quickly noticed. "Karai, wait! Where are you going?!" Karai halted and quickly tried to think of a lie. "I have to check on Shini, Shredder hurt her pretty bad before I was captured."

"Oh, ok, well, will you come by tomorrow? I'm sure Sensei will want to see you to make sure you're ok."

"Yeah." Karai answered without looking at him. "Hey, Leo?"

"Hm?"

"Thank you...you know...for never losing faith in me...I-I appreciate everything you did for me...even though I know you only did it because you wanted Father to be happy." Leo blinked, taken aback by this. "K-Karai, that's not why-"

"I gotta go! Bye Leo!" Karai interrupted and she quickly ran out of the lair.

'Cut! Cut! Cut!' Those words kept repeating in her mind, but it wasn't enough, the cutting just was not enough for the guilt she felt, it was just too great! She's done hurting everyone around her, she's done hoping for a better future and it disappointing her, she's done with the looks everyone gives her, and she's...she's just done with living!

She just can't take the pain anymore, she's been fighting it because she thought the turtles would need her help taking down Shredder but today just proved they don't need her at all. She can't help them, she only causes them trouble, they would be much better off without her.

Karai runs and runs until she is back on the surface. She climbs on a building and runs for a while longer until she is sure she is far enough away then...she takes out her sword.

...

"Guys!" Leo shouts as his brothers and father walk in, he quickly limps towards them. "Sensei, are you ok?"

"My leg is broken but I will be fine." Splinter assured. Leo then looked at Raph. "Raph, I'm sorry." Raph looked confused. "For what?"

"You were right, something is wrong with Karai. She said something strange and then ran out the lair." They all looked at each other before looking back at him. "Where was she going?" Donnie asked.

"She said she went to go check on Shinigami." Donnie looked concerned but didn't want to jump to conclusions. "Well, that makes sense. I think your-"

"Hey, Kappa." A familiar voice said and they looked to see Shinigami. "I'm glad to see you all well. Have you seen Senpai?"

Leo looked worried. "She said she was going to check on you." Shini then shared his expression. "I didn't see her at the lair and I certainly didn't see her on my way over here."

Ok, now Donnie was jumping to conclusions. "Shredder's lair is a few blocks away from us, she should have been there by now." Raph took in everything and looked at his oldest brother. "Leo? What exactly did Karai say?"

"Well, her exact words were, "Thank you, for never losing faith in me and I appreciate everything you did for me...even though I know you only did it because you wanted Father to be happy.""

Everyone stood silent for a moment.

"That's it? What's so bad about that?" Mikey asked and Leo sighed. "It's not what she said, Mikey, it's the way she said it. She sounded sad, like, really, really, sad. I-I've never seen her like that before."

Raph stood frozen for a moment as Shen's words from the night before played in his head.

"I'm afraid I cannot tell you much, but Miwa is fighting a very powerful darkness..."

"Please, my son, you must save your sister, she is not ready to join me yet!"

It then clicked. "Karai's going to kill herself!" Raph shouted out and everyone looked at him in complete shock. "WHAT?!!!" They all shouted, fearfully.

It was all there...the dull eyes, Karai losing control of her emotions, her wearing nothing but long sleeves, all the signs were there and they were too blind to see it!

"W-Wait, how do you know this?!" Donnie asked but Raph just growled and pushed him forward. "No time to explain, we gotta find her before it's too late!"

"I am coming with you!" Splinter said and started walking to the Shellraiser. "But Sensei-!" Donnie tried to argue but Splinter quickly cut him off with a stern glare. "She's my daughter, I'm going!"

"So, am I!" Leo said, following his father's lead. Donnie opened his mouth to argue about how much worse his injuries are then Splinter's but Leo spoke before he could. "She needs us Donnie, she needs all of us! I don't know what caused Karai to want to hurt herself...but I know that in some way, it was our fault."

Donnie considered his words for a moment and after a while he nodded and went to the Shellraiser. "Aren't you coming, Shini?!" Mikey called as he got in the Shellraiser. Shini looked at him sadly and shook her head. "No...I better stay, in case she comes back. Besides...I believe only you guys can save her now."

"We'll call you as soon as we find her!" Leo promises before he quickly drives away and Shini waves them off until they are out of her sight. "Please...bring her home."

Chapter 6: The sai...

Karai took a few shaky breaths and held her sword firmly in her hands. She hesitated a little but after a while she slowly lifted the sword above her head. She took a few more shakey breaths and gripped the sword tighter. She closed her eyes and was just about to bring down the sword when-

"MIWA, STOP!!!" A desperate voice yelled, and Karai's eyes snapped open to see her father and brothers standing in front of her. Their eyes were wide and fearful. "W-What are you guys doing here?" Karai asked, she tried to not make her voice sound so broken, but it was hard to. "Shinigami, came to the lair and said you never made it home." Donnie explained.

"Yeah! Then Raph said he thinks you are going to...take your life...looks like he was right." Mikey said, his voice full of fear and sadness. Karai bit her lip to hold back the tears. "You guys shouldn't be here."

Splinter's ears were flat, and he had tears in his eyes. He swallowed the lump in his throat before speaking. "Miwa, p-put the sword down, w-we can talk about this, it does not have to be this way." Karai shook her head. "This is the only way father; this is the only way to make sure I don't hurt anyone else."

"Karai what are you talking about?!" Raph asked. "The things you did in the past are not your fault, it was all Shredder!"

"Oh, really?! Was it Shredder's fault when I ordered Shinigami to beat up April?! Was it Shredder's fault when I talked Leo into going behind your backs?! Was it Shredder's fault when I almost got Donnie blown up?! Was it Shredder's fault that he was able to capture me again?! Is it Shredder's fault that I am a disappointment to my father and mother! Is it Shredder's fault that everyone around me looks at me like a monster?!"

Splinter couldn't believe what he was hearing, none of them could and he started walking towards her. "Miwa-"

"Don't!" Karai shouted while backing up and gripping the sword tighter. Splinter immediately backed up. "Ok, ok." He said softly. "Miwa, I am not disappointed in you, nor is your mother, and no one sees you as a monster."

Karai scoffed. "Yeah, right! Every time you look at me you always have disappointment in your eyes, you even said I'm like Shredder!" Splinter felt a pain of guilt enter his heart; he was about to speak but Karai cut him off. "I poisoned the turtles and almost killed Leo! Raph never liked me which I don't blame him for! I hurt Donnie's girlfriend! And even when I saw the fear in Mikey's eyes, I still poisoned and hurt him!" Karai then looked at Splinter. "And

today, you almost died because of me! This is the only way I can make sure I won't hurt anyone else!"

"My child, listen to me!" Splinter yelled desperately. "You are not a monster, you are the most fearless, passionate girl I know, and I couldn't be prouder to call you, my daughter! I love you, Miwa, we all love you and we want to help you!"

Karai shook her head. "No one loves me..." She choked and Splinter firmly shook his head. "That is not true!" Karai stepped back a little. "It is true, it is!"

"Karai, please, listen to us! We forgive you for everything, you're our sister, our family, we don't want to lose you!" Leo pleaded. "Please, Stop!" Karai shouted and Splinter slowly walked towards her, tears falling down his face. "Please, put it down." He whispered and Karai stepped back while whimpering. "Aka-chan, please put it down! Please, I love you so much, I don't want to lose you again! Please, please, put it down!"

Karai looked him in the eye and shook her head. "I-I'm sorry." Karai then brought the sword down at fast speed much to everyone's horror. "NO!!!" They all shouted, tears running down their faces. But before the sword could even touch Karai, something knocked it out of her hands, making it fall off the building.

They all looked to see Raph who was taking shaky breaths with tears running down his face and one of his sais missing. Apparently, he had thrown his sai to prevent Karai from taking her life. He glared at her and walked forward. "I made a promise to Shen, our mother, that I would save you from your darkness and I'm going to do just that even if you don't want me to! I'm not going to let you kill yourself!"

"No..." Karai whispered before falling on her knees. "No! No! No!" Splinter went to her and wrapped his arms around her. Karai punched him in the chest, furiously. "No! Let me go!"

"No. I will never let you go." Splinter whispered and held her firmly. He let out a few painful grunts when she punched him. Karai kept punching and screaming until she grew tired. "You should have let me go..." She said softly before falling asleep in Splinter's arms.

Splinter sighed. "Never..." He said before he looked at Raph. "Raphael, would you...?" Raph nodded. "I got her, Pop." Raph said before going over to him and picking up his sister. Mikey looked at the scene sadly. "Is Karai going to be, ok?"

Donnie wrapped an arm around him. "She will be fine, Mikey. She is just sick and needs help." Mikey nodded, though he didn't really understand, he didn't understand any of this, he just wanted to go home and pretend like this night never happened.

Leo sighed as he wiped his eyes. "Come on, guys, let's go home...we have a lot to talk about..."

Chapter 7: Blame

Back at the lair,

Shini was waiting patiently for the turtles and her friend when she heard them coming in. She all but ran to the entrance. She didn't know what she was expecting but she wasn't expecting to see her friend passed out in Raph's arms, looking exhausted.

"Bring her to the lab, Raph." Donnie ordered.

"What happened?!" Shini asked and Leo hesitates before answering. "Y-You might want to sit down, Shinigami."

"Just tell me, Leonardo!"

Leo sighed. "Karai...she...she tried to kill herself." Shini eyes went eyed with fear and disbelief. "W-What? W-Why would she do that?"

"We don't know, we're going to talk to her as soon as she wakes up and then we are going to come up with a plan to help her."

Shini couldn't believe what she was hearing. This whole time, her friend has been in danger, and she didn't even know. She never once saw any signs that Karai was even depressed but she guessed that wasn't really surprising since Karai has always been talented at hiding her feelings and it makes sense that she is depressed considering what she went through all these years.

"I...I need some air." Shini said before walking out the lair. Leo was about to call out to her, but Mikey stopped him. "I got this bro."

As soon as Mikey left the lair, he saw Shinigami sitting on the ground, crying. "Shinigami?" Mikey said softly before sitting next to her. Shini looked at him. "It's my fault, Michelangelo! It's my fault this happened! I came here so I could look after her and protect her like she has always done for me, but I failed and now-"

"Whoa! Whoa! Shini, slow down." Mikey interrupted her spiraling and wrapped an arm around her shoulder. "It's not your fault, you didn't know, you couldn't have known."

"But I should have! She's my sister, Michelangelo, my best friend and I...I wasn't there when she needed me." Mikey then hugged her. "We all should have known but we didn't and now we have to deal with that. Karai needs us now; I don't really understand what's going on with her, but I know I never want to see her that sad again. So, let's try to be happy for her because I don't think it will help if she sees us all sad."

"But-"

"Karai's strong, right?" Mikey asked and Shini nodded against his chest. "The strongest person I know."

"Then don't worry, she'll get through this. I know she will because she has us to help her." Shini chuckled a little. "How is it you always see the light in the darkest of moments, Mikey?" Mikey shrugged. "Don't know, just always have."

He kissed Shini's forehead and (If possible) hugged her tighter. "You're going to be ok, Shini and so is Karai, don't worry."

...

In the lab,

"How is she, Donnie?" Leo asked and Donnie sighed. "She's fine, just exhausted and...I found some self-inflicted scars on her arms. Some are fresh and some look months old, apparently, she has been like this for a while."

Leo looked sadly at him, and he wanted to say something but before he could, he heard something in the kitchen. He left the lab to check it out and he was surprised when he saw Splinter packing stuff in boxes.

"Father? What are you doing?" Leo asked.

"What does it look like?" Splinter said without even looking at him, too focused on what he was doing. Leo didn't know what to say. "Um..."

"I'm packing everything that Miwa could hurt herself with. Knives, forks, glass, basically anything that is sharp! I have Raphael packing the dojo as well, you are going to have to train with wooden weapons for a while." Splinter explained as he picked up the pace.

"Sensei, is that really necessary? I don't think Karai will try anything again. She knows that we will keep an eye on her." Splinter stopped for a moment to look at him with hard eyes. "Yes! I am not taking any chances!"

Leo looked at Splinter sadly. "Father..." Splinter took a deep breath and tried to hold back the tears. "I'm a terrible Father, Leonardo. To her I have been a terrible father. I wasn't there for her when she was a baby, and I definitely wasn't there for her now. How could I make her feel that she was a disappointment? How could I have made her feel unloved? And how did I not see it?!"

Leo sighed and went to his father's side. "I think we all made her feel unloved, Father. We are all to blame for this, not just you. None of us saw what was going on with Karai until it was too late."

"Raphael did." Splinter pointed out and Leo shrugged. "He may have noticed that Karai was depressed but he didn't know that she was going to...and that's because Raph can read her better than we can. The two are more alike than they think."

Splinter nodded in agreement but then a fear thought crossed his mind. "You don't think Raphael will..." Leo blinked in surprise. "What? No! I mean, Raph has been depressed before but...no, no I don't think he will do that."

"Are you sure? Because he has the same fear of hurting others with his temper like Miwa has." Leo gave him an assuring smile. "I'm positive, Sensei. Let's just focus on Karai right now."

"Guys!" Donnie called and went into the kitchen, breathing heavily. "Karai's awake."

Chapter 8: Spirit

When Karai woke up the first thing, she saw was a lot of shiny balls, whispering sweet words. She looked around, wondering where she was. "Hello? Where am I?"

"In a world between life and death." A voice said, a voice that Karai swears sounds familiar to her. She turned around and her eyes widened in shock. Standing before her, was her mother, Tang Shen. "...Mother?" Karai choked out as her eyes filled with tears.

Shen smiled kindly, her eyes teary as well. "Hello, my love." Karai could not believe it. How is she here? She was sure Raph stopped her from taking her own life. "Am I dead?" Shen shook her head. "No. I brought you here so we can talk."

Karai hung her head, thinking the worst. "I know that I disappointed you, Mother, I know I'm not the daughter you wanted, I know I did a lot of trouble things, I also know that you and Father would fight because you didn't want me to be a kunoichi." Shen frowned and walked over to her daughter, cupping her cheek. "Miwa...that is not true. You are not a disappointment. I will admit...I did not want you to be a kunoichi but only because I knew how dangerous it was. Your father would always come home injured, physically and spiritually and he would carry such a burden on his shoulders because he was the leader of the clan. I didn't want you to go through that, you would have been next in line as leader of the Hamato Clan, but I have been watching you Miwa and I now see what your father always saw in you. You lead your clan with such pride and might, you took a clan of darkness and led them down the right path. You are your father's daughter, you are an Hamato."

Karai scoffed. "I'm nothing like Father." Shen chuckled. "Don't be too sure of that. You are actually a lot like your father, prideful, strong, loyal hearted, hotheaded, a true rebel." Karai raised a brow. "Ok, now I know you are pulling my leg. There is no way my father was a rebel, I bet he was a lot like Leo."

Shen smiled. "The rest of your siblings think the same, but they are way off. True, Leonardo shares some similarities with your father but not many."

A door then showed up and it opened. Karai's eyes widened a bit when she saw a young human version of her father. He has dark black hair and ruby eyes. He wore a leather jacket, red shirt, and black jeans. Karai laughed. "That's him?! No way!"

"It is indeed. Watch and see what happens."

Yoshi was sitting in what looked like an office, holding an ice pack under his eye. Suddenly the door knocked. "Come in." A man wearing a brown suit said and two people walked in. A woman with black hair that had a few gray streaks in it and ruby eyes. She wore a red kimono, a gold belt, and black pants. The man had long gray hair he wore in a high ponytail, a beard, and brown eyes. He wore a black kimono and white pants. They both sat next to Yoshi, Yoshi being between them, and he scowled down as the principal spoke.

"Mr. and Mrs. Hamato, thank you for coming, we need to talk about Yoshi and his behavior. You son is out of control, skipping classes, pulling pranks, and getting into fights. He just today broke a poor boy's arm."

"Yeah, and I would do it again!" Yoshi spat and Yuuta glared at him. "Hamato Yoshi!" Yoshi whipped his head at him. "Miyamoto Usagi, locked Hana in the locker, harassed Chikara, and stole Saki's books! He's the one who started it, I only finished it!"

Yuuta blinked in surprise. "Miyamoto?" The principal looked at him. "You know that Mr. Hamato?" Yuuta nodded. "Yes, Usagi's father and I are rivals. He also has a dojo, and he has been trying to steal students from me for some time. He has been harassing me and my family constantly...seems his son is following his lead. Still..." Yuuta glared back at his son. "That's no excuse to break the boy's arm Yoshi! I taught you better than that!"

Yoshi growled. "You taught me to always defend my family, that's all I was doing! I didn't mean to break his arm, ok?! That was an accident!"

"An accident is losing your keys, not breaking someone's arm!"

"Yuuta!" Atsuko called. "Look, I'm not saying Yoshi was right to break Miyamoto's son's arm, but his heart was in the right place." Yuuta looked at her. "That's no excuse, Atsuko, you can't keep defending him. Yoshi needs to learn self-control!"

Atsuko nodded. "I agree but I know where Yoshi's coming from. He will learn one day, just like I did. He's still just a child."

"I'm right here you know." Yoshi said, interrupting their conversation. "I'm sorry, ok?! But we can't keep letting the Miyamotos keep treating us like this, we got to do something!" Yuuta looked at his son sternly. "You let me worry about that, I am the Master of the Hamato clan, not you. It is none of your concern."

"I will be a master one day, won't I?!"

"Not if you keep acting so rashly!"

Yoshi scowled at him and got up. "I am not a kid anymore, I could help if you would let me but no, you never trust me with anything! Whatever, I don't need your permission, I will take care of them myself!" Atsuko stood up. "Yoshi! You are just seeking another fight! Please, take a moment to just think about your actions!"

"I have been thinking and I will do this...my own way. If the Miyamotos want a fight, then it's a fight they'll get!"

The door then closed and disappeared while Miwa stared in disbelief. "Wow, I would have never guessed that Father was like that. What happened after that?" Shen shook her head. "Like Yoshi said, he confronted the Miyamoto family but only to discover that Usagi's mother was very sick and was going to pass away soon. That's why his father was trying so desperately to get students, he needed money for expensive medicine and why Usagi had been bullying Yoshi and his siblings, he was taking his frustrations out on them. After

begging for forgiveness, Yoshi went to his father and told him everything. Yuuta then used the healing hands to cure Usagi's mother and she awoke good as new. Usagi and Yoshi became close friends after that, who always had each other's backs and would always be at each other's side. Similar to you and Shinigami."

Karai looked down. "Shinigami...Shinigami! I haven't seen her since Shredder knocked her out, is she-!"

"She's alright, Michelangelo is currently comforting her." Katai sighed in relief and Shen frowned. "She is very worried about you, they all are. If you would have taken your life, you would have left Shinigami alone."

Karai looked away. "I know that but...I also knew that Michelangelo and the others would take care of her when I'm gone." Shen shook her head. "I don't think you understand just how important you are to her. Shinigami looks up to you, Miwa, you're like the big sister she never had and to her, you saved her from a life she would forever feel miserable in. She believes that she is nothing without you leading her and guiding her, like you always have. Without you Miwa, she will be lost."

Karai took in a sharp breath. "But I...I'm the reason she keeps getting hurt, I failed to protect her, I failed to protect father. The only reason I kept living was to protect them, but I know now that I can't protect anybody, I can only hurt them!"

"That's not true Miwa. You're the reason your brothers were able to make it out of the undercity alive, you kept pushing them to keep fighting for your father. You're the reason why Leonardo was able to survive Shredder, without you they would have never made it." Karai took in what her mother said, and it was hard to believe but she could not deny that what she was saying was true. If she didn't speak up, her brothers would be too focused on the loss of Splinter to focus on the fight at hand and if she didn't distract Shredder, Leo would have been killed instantly.

"You are a born protector Miwa, another thing you inherited from your father. You may think no one needs you and they all hate you, but they don't. Everyone needs you Miwa, you are the glue that holds them together but...you should not only live because of them, you should live for yourself because you want to. I know that you had a hard life and I'm sorry that I failed to see the darkness behind Saki before it was too late, but I know you can overcome it."

Karai sniffed. "I do want to live but...I'm scared. It's all too hard, too much, I don't know if I can take it!" Shen smiled. "Then let your father, brothers, and friends help you. They want to help you Miwa, but they can't if you don't let them in and tell them what's wrong. No one can fight this kind of darkness alone, it takes a team, it takes a family who loves you and they do love you Miwa, very much so."

Karai wiped the tears from her eyes and lifted her head up high. "Ok, I think I'm ready to go back." Shen smiled proudly. "A brave choice. I love you Miwa and I am so very proud of the strong woman you've become. I have faith in you."

Miwa smiled back. "Thank you for everything, Mother. I will miss you."

"I will never be far. I will always be with you, even if you cannot hear or see me...I'll be there."

...

"Karai? Karai, are you awake?" Mikey asked and Karai slowly opened her eyes, too, to see her family staring at her with a mix of worry and relief. "Karai, are you ok?" Donnie asked.

"Yeah." Karai said while sitting up and she took a deep breath before looking at them seriously. "And I'm ready to tell you everything..."

Chapter 9: Family Talk

Splinter sat next to his daughter and wrapped an arm around her. "We are willing to listen, Miwa but you do not have to force yourself if you are not ready." Karai shook her head. "No, I'm ready."

The turtles gathered around the bed, and they all listened to her closely. "It all started when Shini and I blew up the martial arts store. Tigerclaw was about to kill me, and he said, "This world would not mourn me when I am gone." I let his words get into my head because it was true. I have so many sins, sins I've tried months making up for, but I keep making the same mistakes! After I left that night, my blade called out to me, and I couldn't resist so I cut myself. I've been cutting myself every time I make a mistake out of punishment. The only reason I kept on living was because I wanted to help protect you guys from Shredder but after today, I see now that I'm only putting you in more danger and that you don't need me."

They all looked at Karai in shock, neither of them had any idea she felt this way. Leo was the first to speak. "Karai, of course we would mourn you if anything ever happened to you! You're our sister!" Karai shook her head. "But I tried to poised your brothers and I tried to kill Splinter."

"That wasn't your fault! Shredder mind controlled you!" Karai sniffed. "I could have fought it; I should have fought harder!" Donnie stepped up. "Karai, Stockman probably made the worms stronger than he did last time, making it impossible for you to fight it. It was hard for Raph to. Leo is telling you the truth, we would mourn for you, we did today! We love you, Karai."

"I have done way worse to you than your brothers. I almost fried your brain with that helmet."

"Again, you were mind controlled." Karai shook her head. "Not when I almost blew you up, I wasn't."

"N-No." Donnie stuttered a bit. "But you didn't know I was there; it wasn't like you did it on purpose. It was an accident." Karai frowned at him. "An accident is losing your keys, I almost killed you!" Donnie sighed. "Karai, I don't blame you. Honestly, If Shredder would have killed Sensei, I don't know what I would do but I know it wouldn't be anything good. I probably would be just as angry as you are for the loss of your mother and make tons of mistakes too. I think we all would." Donnie gestured to his brothers, and they all nodded in agreement.

"What about that time I beat up your girlfriend? I beat her up badly, I could have beaten her to death or worse, brought her to Shredder." Karai tested further and Donnie blushed when she said girlfriend. "You were still under Shredder's control-"

"He ordered me to bring April to him, not to beat her up! I didn't have to do it, I wanted to! That decision was mine and mine alone." For some reason, Donnie grinned. "Exactly!" Karai looked at him confused. "Karai, please, we all know that you could have easily taken April to

Shredder, but you didn't. You chose not to. My theory is, I think you wanted it to look like she was a challenge for you, I think that's why you tried to get her all riled up. You were trying to get her to fight harder. April told me about the stuff you said."

Karai blushed a little and looked away. "Well, I didn't do it for her own good. She was part of alien project that could destroy the world. I live here too! I didn't want to die because of her!" Donnie chuckled a little. "I don't believe you. I think you did it for the world's own good." Karai glared at him, and Mikey smiled at her. "You may have done a lot of wrong Karai, but you've done a lot of good too when you listen to your heart instead of your head. Remember that time when you put Shredder's vendetta aside to try to help us take down the Kraang with a missile launcher? Then Leo betrayed you."

"We all betrayed her, Mikey!" Leo yelled. "And you guys talked me into it!"

"My point is! It was never all about revenge for you like Shredder, you saw more to life than that. You were even willing to work with your enemies and get in trouble with Shredder to make sure the Kraang didn't win. You are a protector Karai, you protect everyone, especially those you care about."

Karai sighed and looked at him sadly. "I know you fear me, Mikey. I see it in your eyes every time I'm mad or do something wrong." Mikey scoffed. "Well, of course I'm scared of you, it would be stupid not to! I ain't that dumb!" Karai looked down but Mikey kept his smile. "I mean that in a good way!" Karai looked at him surprised and confused. "You're the daughter of my Sensei who is the strongest ninja I know, your mother was the fiercest woman I ever met, and you were trained by Shredder, the whole mutant snake thing is just icing on the cake! You may not see it Karai, but all those things are what makes you who you are, it's why you're such a badass! We could always count on you to put anyone in their place and destroy anyone who might hurt us. We do need you sis and we want you to be with us!"

Karai couldn't find the words to say, and Raph chuckled. "It's true. Even I have to admit, I'm scared of you." Karai looked at him. "Why did you stop me? I thought you of all people would want me gone, you've hated me since the very beginning."

"Well, yeah, because you worked with the Foot, and I didn't know who you were back then. I'll admit I haven't been easy on you, even after Splinter told me you were his daughter, but I do care about you Karai. I've cared ever since Splinter told us but...I just feared for my family. I wanted to help you, but I didn't want my family to get hurt because of it but when I finally got to know you better, I started to think of you as family and I would protect you, just like I would protect my brothers and Sensei. I understand you, Karai, you may not think I don't, but I do. You're my sister and I love you as such, K? So, get better so we can spare and do cool stuff together!"

Splinter smiled at her. "You see, my daughter? We all love you and want to help you." Karai frowned at him. "What about you? I know I remind you of Shredder, I know I'm a disappointment and not the daughter you wanted. I almost killed your sons more times than I can count, and I know that is unforgivable in your book." Splinter nodded. "You're right, it is but anyone who would dare hurt my daughter is unforgivable as well." Karai was taken aback by that. "You thought we were the enemies back then; you couldn't have known any better, so I forgive you and you are not a disappointment Miwa! All I wanted out of a daughter was for

her to be happy, nothing more! You are not like Shredder, I only meant you were going in the same vengeful path, but you do not have his personality nor his mind."

"But...that look. You always gave me that look every time I did something wrong." Splinter looked confused for a moment but then he knew what she was talking about. "Miwa, that was not a look of disappointment, that was a look of worry. I worry about you constantly because of your recklessness." Karai blinked in surprise. "R-Really? But-But I thought-"

"I have never been disappointed in you, my daughter. Never." Splinter said firmly and Karai looked down in thought. "I guess I never had someone worry for me before that I mistake it for something else. I'm really sorry I scared you guys, I thought you all hated me."

Leo smiled. "It's ok, it's honestly our fault for making you feel this way but now that we know, we can help you get better." Donnie nodded. "It won't be easy but I think together we can do it, but you have to be willing to let us help Karai."

Karai sighed. "...Ok, I'm willing."

Chapter 10: Healing

The turtles and Splinter agreed to not leave Karai alone as she got better, not really trusting her to not try to run off again. Splinter was sitting on the couch with her watching TV, her head resting on his chest and a blanket around her. The turtles went out to grab dinner and Shinigami went to get a few clothes for her.

Splinter looked down at his daughter as she watched her favorite movie, The Tale of Princess Kaguya. It surprised Splinter that his daughter would like a movie like this but as he watched he understood why. Princess was related to his daughter in so many ways. Once a happy, free girl was forced to live in a place that made her unhappy and pretend to be something she wasn't for her father's sake then at the end of the movie, Princess was taken away from her parents never to see them again.

Splinter looked down at his daughter again who had been extremely quiet and had no emotion on her face, but he could tell by her dull red eyes that she was not even close to feeling better. He sighed. "You...remind me a lot of myself when I was young."

Karai was taken aback by that, and her eyes lifted up to look at him. "I was rebellious just like you and I used to feel trapped too. My father was very very strict when I was young, all I ever heard was, "Don't do this, Yoshi. Set example, Yoshi. Get out of your head and be a warrior, Yoshi."

He huffed and shook his head. "My father and I didn't really have a son and father relationship. He was more of a sensei to me than a father. He always had high expectations for me, and I would hate it. Your mother was the only light in my life back then. when I was with her, I felt like I could finally breathe and not have to worry about the pressure my father put me under. When she died and I thought I lost you...I felt like the world was suffocating me and I...got really depressed." He then looked his daughter in the eye. "I want to show you something that I never showed anyone, but it has to be only between me and you, ok?"

Karai nodded and Splinter looked around to make sure they were truly alone before he unbandage his bandages on his arms. Karai's eyes widened a little at the scars on his arms, it was hard to see because of all the fur but if you were close enough, they weren't hard to find.

"I started it when I moved to New York." Splinter started to explain. "Like you, my knife just called out to me one day and it was hard to resist. I wanted to end my life, but I knew your mother would want me to keep fighting so I tried my best for her, but I could hear my sword calling out for me louder and louder each day. Then, I saw baby turtles were for sale and I thought that maybe if I had something to care for then maybe I wouldn't feel this way anymore. After the mutation, I felt even more depressed than I did before, and I thought that wasn't even possible. I lost everything that I loved and knew and now I lost my humanity and I had four infant turtle creatures I had to take care of on top of all that. It was all just...too much. Once I took the turtles and myself somewhere safe, I lifted up my sword ready to take my life when I felt a little hand on my knee. It was Raphael, looking at me, his green eyes studying mine and surprising myself I dropped the sword and picked him up instead."

Splinter chuckled at the memory. "He pulled on my ears as soon as I did while laughing, the little brat but for some reason when I heard him laugh for the first time, I felt lighter like I could breathe again. I suppose because his actions reminded me of you, you used to pull on my hair and laugh too."

Splinter sighed. "It didn't all go away in just one night but little by little I had light in my life again and I had a new purpose for living but the turtles could never fill the whole you and your mother had in my heart."

Splinter looked his daughter in the eyes. "Even the strongest of us can fall Miwa, fall very deep into darkness and it's almost impossible to pull yourself out from but when you have people who love you, it becomes easier." Karai smiled and Splinter thought her eyes looked a little lighter. "She's still with you, even if you don't see her."

Splinter smiled and kissed her head. "I know she is, I'm sure she is watching over all of us. You, me, and your brothers."

...

Karai frowned at the plate in front of her as Donnie sat next to her, reading his book until he noticed the look on Karai's face. "What's wrong, Karai? Aren't you hungry?"

"I...I haven't even noticed before, but I don't think I've eaten anything in a while. I don't really have much of an appetite and looking at the food just makes me feel sick." Donnie put his book down and frowned. "You got to eat, Karai but you don't have to force yourself, just take small bites."

Karai nodded and picked up the slice of pizza before taking a small bite, she took a few more bites before her stomach felt like it couldn't take much more. She sighed in disappointment, really wanting to be able to finish at least the whole slice.

Donnie wrapped an arm around her. "It's ok, there is no rush. Remember, one step at a time, you'll get your appetite back." Karai nodded. "Yeah, I guess you're right."

...

Few weeks later,

April, Casey, and Shini begged Splinter to let them take Karai out, telling him she needs to get out more or else she would never get better. Splinter agreed but made them promise that they would keep a close eye on her which wasn't a problem since they were planning on doing so anyway.

"Why did you guys invite me out to lunch?" Karai asked, bitterly and Shini smiled at her. "Because we want you to have fun!" Karai gave her a look and Shini looked down. "And...we wanted to talk to you." She mumbled and Karai sighed. "I knew it."

Shini looked at her sadly. "Karai, how could you keep something like this from me? I'm your sister, your best friend, don't you trust me?" Karai gave her a guilty look. "Of course, I do,

you're the only one I ever trusted. I just...didn't know how to tell you, I know how much you look up to me and I just didn't want you to see me as weak."

"I could never!" Shini insisted. "You're the strongest person I know, and I would never see you any differently because you're going through a hard time. You aren't weak Karai; you're just going through a hard time, that's all."

"Shini is right." April said. "You're not weak Karai, in fact, I'm always jealous of how strong you are." Karai blinked in surprise and then scoffed. "I thought you wanted me to stay far away from all of you because I was dangerous?"

April looked down guilty. "I'm sorry that I said that. I didn't mean it; I was just upset because-
"

"I almost blew up your boyfriend?" April quickly covered her mouth and shush her as she glanced over at Casey who was busy ordering the food. "Don't say that, are you trying to get Donnie and Casey to fight more? Donnie isn't my boyfriend."

"No, but you want him to be." April's eyes widened and she blushed slightly. "Is...is it really that obvious?"

Karai shrugged. "For me at least. You can't hide anything from the Master of deception." April sighed. "Please, don't say anything to anyone, especially Casey, I don't know how to break it to him." Karai rolled her eyes. "Princess if I wanted to blab your secret to everyone, I would have done it months ago." Before April could say anything, Casey came back with the food and frowning at the girls. "Aw, you started the talk without me, didn't you?"

Karai smiled at him. "You snooze, you lose, Jones. Should have hurried and gotten the food." Shini frowned at him. "This is girl talk, what could you possibly say to Karai to make her feel better, you don't even know her that well yet!"

"I just wanted to say that Karai, you are a badass and a hot girl, you should be prouder of yourself. Don't be so hard on yourself because you made a few mistakes that got the turtles in danger, April did way worse. The guys told me everything when she went on missions with them, and they always had to save her butt because she thought she could take care of herself."

"Casey!" April scolded but Karai burst out into laughter, the first real laugh she made in months which made Shini smile. "I guess I was too quick to judge your methods, Casey." She admitted and once Karai stopped laughing, she smiled at him. "Thanks, Casey."

"No problem, I got your back, we all do." He said and Shini and April nodded in agreement.

...

"It feels like ages since we spared! You sure you're in the mood, Karai?" Leo asked and Karai grinned. "I'm sure, I'm ready to take you down again." Leo smiled and got his swords ready; they weren't real swords because Splinter still didn't feel comfortable having sharp things

around. "Don't go easy on me Leo, give me all you got." Karai said and Leo nodded before charging at her.

Leo couldn't help but smile as Karai swung her wood sword at him as he backed away. She truly has come a long way in just a month. He noticed that she was fighting like her old self, fiercely, passionate, and graceful. It didn't take long until his face met the carpet and Karai smiled proudly. "Just like old times, eh Leo?"

Leo chuckled and smiled softly at her as he sat up. "Yeah...just like old times."

...

"Alright, so are you coming or what?" Raph asked Karai as he got in the shell raiser. He was sneaking Karai out for a midnight portal with real weapons. Raph thought it was a good idea if Karai got out to kick some ass to get frustration out, punching a punching bag and sparring isn't enough, she needs a real fight but when he voiced these thoughts to Splinter, he immediately shut it down.

Raph wasn't going to listen though; he understands Karai and he knows exactly what she needs right now. He was obviously going to keep a close eye on her though, not really trusting her fully yet either, but she is getting better.

"Father is going to be pissed." Karai said bitterly as she got in the shell raiser and Raph smirked at her. "Since when are you such a daddy's girl?" Karai smiled at him. "I guess when you turned into a softy and admitted you loved me."

Raph blushed and scoffed. "I only said that to make you feel better. I'll kick your ass into next week, so you better watch it." Karai chuckled. "Raphie, you couldn't kick my ass if you tried."

"I told you not to call me that!" Raph yelled but he wasn't really angry, on the inside he was grinning. 'I never thought I would miss this.'

It took a couple hours, but they finally found someone's ass to kick. "Purple dragons, not really a challenge but it will do. You ready?" Raph asked his sister, grinning who grinned back. "Are you?"

She asked before jumping down, Raph right behind. "Whoever can kick the most ass doesn't have to explain to Splinter why we're out so late!" Raph called out and Karai laughed. "You are so on!"

...

Karai smiled as she looked down at the three knocked out men while Raph was frowning at the one. Karai laughed. "Looks like I won!" Raph growled. "Hun was tougher than I thought!"

"Excuses, excuses." Karai said while resting her hand on her hip and Raph growled even more. They then went back to the shell raiser and back home. Karai smiled at Raph. "Thanks

for tonight, Raph, I really needed it. It's been so frustrating with everyone worrying about me all the time."

Raph shrugged. "No problem, sis but you should be lucky you have people around who care."

"I know, I'm just not really used to it yet." She then smirked. "So, what are you going to tell Splinter?" Raph groaned. "What can I say but the truth. Who knows, maybe he won't be up to catch us for once."

"HAMATO RAPHAEL, HAMATO MIWA!!!" Splinter voice roared in the other room and Raph tensed while Karai hissed. "O, busted. Good luck."

"Ugh!"

...

Mikey was humming an upbeat tune as he passed Leo and Raph sleeping on the couch, but he immediately went back to look at them. He tapped each of their noses and snickered when they didn't move a muscle. They were out of it. Mikey then smirked and grabbed a few markers. "This prank is gonna be so good."

"Oh, sounds interesting." Karai's voice said from behind and Mikey tensed. "I-I didn't do anything yet! You-You won't tell, will you Karai?!"

Karai shrugged. "Sure." Mikey let out a breath of relief. "If you let me join in." Karai suddenly said, picking up a red marker and smirking mischievously with her snake eyes narrowed. Mikey beamed. "Ok!"

30 minutes later,

Raph and Leo woke up, rubbing their eyes before looking at each other. Raph had drawn on eyelashes and lipstick while Leo had a goofy mustache.

"HAHAHA YOUR FACE!!!" They both said at the same time but frowned when they realized it. They growled and their eyes turned white out of anger. "MIKEY!!!"

Mikey and Karai silently did a victory high five before Mikey was pulled away by Raph who was pitching his cheeks from behind. "You are so going to get it now, Mikey!!"

"Aah!" Mikey cried in pain while Leo was washing off his face with a rag. "Did you use a permanent marker?!" Karai then grabbed Raph by his shoulder. "Stop! I'm the one who gave you your makeover, Mikey did Leo's face."

"WHAT?!" Raph yelled, letting Mikey go, who immediately hid behind Karai for protection. "You drew on our faces?! With MIKEY?! Are you a kid?!" Karai smirked mischievously. "Aw, what's wrong Raphie, you don't like your makeup~"

Mikey giggled from behind her which made Raph growl louder. "You are dead, girl!!" He yelled before tackling her to the ground and the two immediately started wrestling. "Go,

Karai, go!" Mikey cheered on. "Guys! Stop!" Leo yelled as Donnie walked out of his lab. "Can you guys keep it down?!!"

When Splinter came out, he saw Karai on top of Raph grinning wickedly while he struggled underneath her. "Aw, already, I was hoping you would put up more of a fight."

"Shut up!"

Splinter chuckled at the two and an idea popped in his head. "Miwa, boys, come here." They all did so and stood before their father who grabbed a camera. "I would like to take a picture of all of you. I just realized that I haven't taken a picture with all five of you together."

Donnie and Mikey stood behind Karai, smiling for the picture but Raph and Leo didn't seem interested. "That sounds great, Sensei but I'm not sure I want to take a picture with marker on my face." Raph crossed his arms, nodding in agreement. Karai amusingly rolled her eyes before grabbing both their arms and pulling them in the picture.

"Hey! /Ah!" Both Raph and Leo yelled before they heard a snap and Splinter chuckling while looking at the picture. "That's a keeper. Well done, daughter."

"Damn you, Karai!" Raph yelled while pulling away and Karai pouted. "You don't want to remember the beautiful makeup I put on your face?" Mikey, Donnie, and even Leo snickered at her as Raph pounced again.

Splinter smiled at all of them, especially his daughter, her eyes and her soul are much brighter now, she was now like her old self again. The fierce, free-spirited girl he and his wife created together.

"You lose again, Raphie~"

"Stop calling me that!"

Yeah, his little girl was definitely getting better.

THE END

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